Amendments To The Drawings

No amendments have been made to the drawings.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-16, 20-27, and 30 are pending. The Office Action dated December 21, 2005, in this Application has been carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1-7, 10-16, 20-27, and 30 have been amended in this Response. Claims 8-9, 17-19, and 28-29 have been cancelled in this Response. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Skinner et al. (US Patent No. 6,928,300). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant notes that claims 1, 11, and 21 are independent claims. Pending claims 1-7 and 10 depend from claim 1, pending claims 12-16 and 20 depend from claim 11, and pending claims 22-27 and 30 depend from claim 21.

Skinner et al. does not teach or disclose a method for communication status management, including: receiving a first status change request from a user, the first status change request including at least a first user status indicative of a communication availability of the user and a first duration specifying a period of time during which the first user status is to be maintained; establishing a user communication status based on the first status change request; waiting for the period of time specified by the first duration to elapse; ***determining if the first status change request includes a second user status to take effect after the period of time specified by the first duration has elapsed, wherein the second user status is indicative of a communication availability of the user; and, in the event the first status change request does not include the second user status, prompting the user to update the user communication status***. Accordingly, Skinner et al. does not disclose the limitations of independent claims 1, 11, and 21.

As amended herein, claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

1. A method for communication status management, comprising:

receiving a first status change request from a user, the first status change request including at least a first user status indicative of a communication availability of the user and a first duration specifying a period of time during which the first user status is to be maintained;

establishing a user communication status based on the first status change request;

waiting for the period of time specified by the first duration to elapse;

determining if the first status change request includes a second user status to take effect after the period of time specified by the first duration has elapsed, wherein the second user status is indicative of a communication availability of the user; and

in the event the first status change request does not include the second user status, prompting the user to update the user communication status.

As amended herein, claim 11 recites (emphasis added):

11. A communication system, comprising:

an interface configured to receive a first status change request from a user, the first status change request including at least a first user status indicative of a communication availability of the user and a first duration specifying a period of time during which the first user status is to be maintained;

a status module operatively coupled to the interface and configured to establish a user communication status based on the first status change request, and *to determine if the first status change request includes a second user status to take effect after the period of time specified by the first duration has elapsed, wherein the second user status is indicative of a communication availability of the user*; and

wherein the interface is further configured *to prompt the user to update the user communication status in the event the first status change request does not include the second user status.*

As amended herein, claim 21 recites (emphasis added):

21. A computer program product for communication status management, the computer program product having a medium with a computer program embodied thereon, the computer program comprising:

computer program code for receiving a first status change request from a user, the first status change request including at least a first user status indicative of a communication availability of the user and a first duration specifying a period of time during which the first user status is to be maintained;

computer program code for establishing a user communication status based on the first status change request;

computer program code for waiting for the period of time specified by the first duration to elapse;

computer program code for *determining if the first status change request includes a second user status to take effect after the period of time specified by the first duration has elapsed, wherein the second user status is indicative of a communication availability of the user*; and

computer program code for, *in the event the first status change request does not include the second user status, prompting the user to update the user communication status.*

Skinner et al. discloses a method and apparatus for automated flexible configuring of notifications and activation, wherein a preferences option maintains preferences for enabling and disabling notifications for electronic device(s). The notifications may be, for example, for e-mails, phone calls, or other communications, or events (e.g., datebook alarms). One or more devices may produce notifications, and individual preferences for each device may be maintained, or a single set

of notifications preferences may direct the output of notifications for each device. The notifications preferences includes a schedule option that allows a time period where the notifications may be specifically enabled or disabled automatically. In one embodiment, the notifications preferences control notifications only, and in other embodiments, the notification preferences control notifications and whether or not the devices themselves are enabled or operating (e.g., turning a cell phone device off). A confirmation screen positively identifies whether the device(s) are RF enabled or not (and therefore safe to enter an airport, hospital, or other no RF zone). (Skinner et al., Abstract.)

Fig. 3 of Skinner et al. shows a handheld computer device 300 having a schedule button 365. According to Skinner et al., "If the user presses the schedule button 365, a second dialog is displayed and the user can then confirm or set times that the user wants the wireless device and its related notifications to be set on and off. Turning now to FIG. 4, pressing the schedule button 365 brings up a set notifications times screen 400." (Skinner et al., col. 7, lines 13-16.)

The a set notifications times screen 400 of Fig. 4 includes a start time area 420 and an end time area 430. The start time area 420 provides the user an input area to indicate a start time when the RF device and notifications thereof are to be enabled. The end time area 430 provides the user an area where an end time when the RF device and its related notifications are to be disabled. The start and end times indicate either: (i) a time period between which the RF device(s) and/or associated notifications are to be enabled, or (ii) a time period between which the RF device(s) and/or associated notifications are to be disabled. (Skinner et al., col. 7, lines 24-40.) "Thus the user is provided a flexible way to ensure that the cell phone or other RF device does not interrupt at times when it would be inconvenient or improper to have a notification alarm or buzzer occur." (Skinner et al., col. 7, lines 59-62.)

Applicant asserts the RF device(s) and/or associated notifications of Skinner et al. simply alternate between two states, enabled and disabled, dependent upon user-provided start and end times. Skinner et al. does not teach or disclose a method for communication status management, including: receiving a first status change request from a user, the first status change request including at least a first user status indicative of a communication availability of the user and a first duration specifying a period of time during which the first user status is to be maintained; establishing a user communication status based on the first status change request; waiting for the period of time specified by the first duration to elapse; ***determining if the first status change request includes a second user status to take effect after the period of time specified by the first duration has elapsed, wherein the second user status is indicative of a communication availability of the user; and, in the event the first status change request does not include the second user status, prompting the user to update the user communication status***.

Regarding claims 4, 14, and 24 (as amended herein), Applicant asserts Skinner et al. does not disclose a method, a communication system, or a computer program product, wherein, in the event the first status change request includes the second user status, the user communication status is updated based on the second user status.

Regarding claims 5, 15, and 25 (as amended herein), Applicant asserts Skinner et al. does not disclose a method, a communication system, or a computer program product, wherein user input is received following the prompting, and wherein the user input includes an updated communication status indicative of a communication availability of the user, and an updated duration specifying a period of time during which the updated communication status is to be maintained.

Regarding claims 6 and 26 (as amended herein), Applicant asserts Skinner et al. does not disclose a method, a communication system, or a computer program product, wherein a

determination is made as to whether the user input includes an indication that the updated communication status is to be maintained indefinitely without additional prompting.

Regarding claims 7, 16, and 27 (as amended herein), Applicant asserts Skinner et al. does not disclose a method, a communication system, or a computer program product, wherein in the event the user input does not include an indication that the updated communication status is to be maintained indefinitely without additional prompting, the user communication status is updated based on the user input.

Regarding claims 10, 20, and 30 (as amended herein), Applicant asserts Skinner et al. does not disclose a method, a communication system, or a computer program product, wherein the user communication status is transmitted.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant asserts Skinner et al. fails to teach or disclose all of the elements and limitations of pending independent claims 1, 11, and 21. Applicant also believes that pending claims 1-7 and 10 depend from claim 1, pending claims 12-16 and 20 depend from claim 11, and pending claims 22-27 and 30 depend from claim 21, are also allowable for at least the above reasons.

In the present response, Applicant addresses all of the claim objections and rejections cited in the Office Action. In view of the amendments to the claims and Applicant's remarks, Applicant believes pending claims 1-7, 10-16, 20-27, and 30 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance of pending claims 1-7, 10-16, 20-27, and 30.

With the amendments to the claims presented herein, there are currently 3 pending independent claims and 23 total pending claims in the application. As the original application had 3 independent claims and 30 total claims, Applicant believes no additional fees are due. In the event that any other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due

(other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

The present amendment is believed to contain a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action. Full reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, comments or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference. In particular, should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is also invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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